



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Natalie Burfoot Billing, Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Paulann H. Sheets, Thomas J. Skrmetti, and Elissa T. Wright.

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:32pm.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Skrmetti and Councilor Wright

Members Absent: Councilor Billing, Councilor Kolnaski and Councilor Sheets

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute was led by Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Joan Steinford, 32 Valley Road, a member of the RTM, commended the Tercentennial Committee for the Calendar that was just produced. She noted the many interesting events throughout the year.

She remarked that the Downtown Business Revitalization efforts are paying off, noting the various new or renovated businesses along Rte. 1. She praised the Town staff for all the work that has put into economic development, particularly in that area.

Rep. Steinford is concerned about snow removal on sidewalks, and pointed out the problems along Long Hill Road. She wishes the ordinance concerning snow removal was better enforced, including fines. She also remarked that snowplowing on the side streets needs to be kept up; she recommended improving that service, not cutting back on it.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2004-0341 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council of December 21, 2004 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Wright abstained on the vote to accept the minutes, since she was not present at the meeting.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2004-0340 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Magic Dreamers Dance Group - \$25.00 - Senior Center Discretionary

Swinging Stars - \$25.00 - Senior Center Discretionary

Kitchen Klankers - \$25.00 - Senior Center Discretionary

Robert Suckow - \$5.00 - Dog Pound

Starlite Caterers - \$20.00 - Dog Pound

Peg and Ted Frase - \$50.00 - Dog Pound

Walter Latawiec - \$25.00 - Dog Pound

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Skrmetti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 5 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Skrmetti

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Wright

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilor Bond noted the e-mails she has received concerning the budget.

Councilor Skrmetti also noted budget e-mails, and communications regarding the conflict-of-interest issue that he had brought up at a previous meeting.

Councilor Bartinik received budget e-mails.

Mayor Watson listed the events which he had attended: a luncheon in honor of the Groton Fire Chiefs, and a swearing-in ceremony for the Tribal Council of the Mashantucket Pequot. He received a letter from Judith Lovelace of the Department of Resource Development and Community Development, thanking him for the article he had written for the Mystic River Press concerning school-based health clinics.

The Mayor announced two referrals that had been made: one concerns the CAFR (town audit) that was referred to the Committee-of-the-Whole, and the other is a grant request referred to Finance. Standing Referrals concerning Pending Litigation and Legislative Policy also have been made.

b. Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Tarbox reported that the January RTM meeting was being cancelled due to lack of business.

c. Clerk of the Council

"It's been a slow month."

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger distributed the two reports concerning the Audit and the CAFR. The Tercentennial Committee has produced a Calendar that is being distributed through The Day, the Groton Times, and the Mystic Times.

The Town Manager also noted the calendar that Social Services has provided annually for several years now. It is particularly interesting because it is illustrated with children's drawings. He reminded the Council and public that the orientation meeting of the Economic Development Strategic Plan Steering Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 10, at the Town Hall Annex.

Town Manager Oefinger announced that progress was being made with the sidewalk issue on Rte. 1 in Mystic. He expects that the orange barrels will be removed this week, but noted that the fence may remain until April 1.

Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent reported on the Noank Hatchery status: the State Department of Agriculture is completing the survey, and then the Legislature can act on the bill transferring ownership to the Town.

2005-0010 2005 Expanded DUI Enforcement Program Grant

2005 EXPANDED DUI ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT

This matter was Referred to the Town Council Finance Committee. The motion carried.

2005-0011 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

This matter was Referred to the Town Council Public Safety Committee. The motion carried.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Watson noted that no committee meetings had been held since the previous Town Council meeting, therefore there were no reports to be made.

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Billing**
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond**
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski**
- d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets**
- e. Finance - Chairman Wright**
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne**
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Skrmetti**
- h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik**
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson**

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. was made by Councilor Skrmetti, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*